been set up in the State which are getting a lot of help and guidance from that Fish Research Centre. So, there is every justification that the Research Centre should remain in Burla. Unfortunately efforts are being made by the vested interest to shift that Research Centre from Burla to a place where it has nothing to do with fishing.

In view of this, I request the Central Government that the Regional Fish Research Centre at Burla should not be shifted to any other place and it should be expanded further to give a boost to research and development in the field of fishing in India.

[Translation]

(iv) Need to open more Post offices in Jahanabad District, Bihar

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (JAHANABAD): Sir, India is a Federal country, where Bihar is a state. Bihar is considered as a backward state. No new post office has been opened in my constituency, Jhanabad. Branch post offices may be opened in Kewari, Harisingara villages of Khikarsarai block in Gaya district, Chakronia village of Masorhi block, Sahapur village of Dhanrua block, Bhavanipur and Daharpur villages of Ghosi block in Patna district. In these village letters and moneyorders do not reach to the people in time thereby disturbing the work of the people. The Head Post office at Jahanabad should be upgraded as Jahanabad is District Headquarter.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that immediate necessary action may be taken in this regard.

[English]

(v) Need to take thumb impression of Voters while preparing Voters List for use in General Elections

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, the system of giving identity cards for all voters in India, though laudable, is highly expensive and difficult. Another system has also to be thought of, as this is most important for our democratic system.

While casting votes in general elections either signature or thumb impression of each voter is taken in polling booth. Thumb impression of one person differs from another person and is, therefore, best proof of identity. We can have a system of taking thumb impression of voters while voters' list itself is prepared. The voters' list should have thumb impression of each voter. His thumb impression can be taken at the time of voting also as is being done now. Comparison of the impression on voters' list with the impression given in the polling booth makes best proof for voters' identity. Even with naked eye, these can be compared. A magnifying glass in a polling station can make this foolproof. At any rate, the foolproof comparison by experts is possible when there are more challenged votes or at later stages during election petitions. Severe punishment can be proposed for wrong-doers.

This can completely stop booth capturing and other illegal ways of fraud on voting.

I request the Central Government to make a study of such a system and to implement it in our general elections.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to provide adequate quota of tarcoal to Gujrat

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : Sir, Gujrat has been facing acute shortage of Damar (Coaltar) for the last many years. However, due to summer being at its peak in the last season, the production of Damar was less and inadequate arrangement of loading in coal refineries had its effect on the development of the State.

The Government of Gujrat took up the matter with Central Government and also wrote many letters in this regard but the reply was that the matter is under consideration and no further action was taken. In the year 1996-97, Gujrat has demaned two lakh tonnes of coaltar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government that in view of the development of Gujrat, this problem may be resolved at the earliest and the State may be provided Damar (coaltar) as per its requirement.

(vii) Need to continue the practice of conversion of leasehold properties into freehold in Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Sir, the Government had fixed 31-8-96 as last date for conversion of leasehold properties into freehold in Delhi. It is in the interest of both the Government and the people to continue this scheme for ever. It would be better to continue it atleast for one more year.

Besides, the scheme for conversion of leasehold plots measuring upto 200 sq. yards into freehold may also be introduced so that people can avail of this benefit and the Government can earn crores of rupees. For this I request through you to the Central Government that a new scheme for conversion of leasehold plots (land) alongwith leasehold properties in Delhi into frechold may be introduced without any further delay so that the people of Delhi may get some relief.

[English]

(viii) Need for early conversion of Nizamabad and Mudkhed to Metre Gauge Railway line into Broad Gauge

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY (NIZAMABAD) : Sir, Nizamabad, though a backward region in Andhra Pradesh, yet, is one of the biggest trading partners with Nanded town bordering Maharashtra *via* Mudkhed. At present, Nizamabad town is connected with Mudkhed by metre gauge line, with the result the transhipment of goods takes place at Mudkhed for onward transportation to Nanded and Bombay, which involves additional